India and China seek a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement of the boundary question through peaceful consultations. They signed an agreement on the Maintenance of Peace and Tranquility along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the India-China Border Areas in 1993 and a second agreement on Confidence Building Measures in the Military Field along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Areas in 1996. These two Agreements provide an institutional framework for the maintenance of peace and tranquility in the border areas. The process of clarification of the LAC has started within existing mechanisms. Maps of the LAC in the Middle Sector have been exchanged. Discussions have commenced on clarification of the LAC in the Western Sector of the India-China boundary.

During the 14th meeting of the JWG, both sides reviewed the ongoing process of LAC clarification. They also continued discussions on further confidence Building Measures. Both sides agreed, *inter alia*, on the need to substantially enhance trade and economic relations, cultural and people-to-people exchanges. Both sides also reviewed the functioning of the existing dialogue mechanisms, such as on counter terrorism and security, and agreed to establish a dialogue mechanism between the two Foreign Offices on policy planning . Regional and international issues were also discussed.

Functioning of P.F. Commissioner

2655. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Provident Fund Commissioner's office in Varanasi deprives pensions to the widows of its own employees;

(b) if so, the steps Government are taking to bring to book such acts of negligence and callousness;

(c) whether any action has been initiated against the culprits who are delaying payments of pensions on such a manner all over the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(e) to (d) Does not arise.